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SPOTLIGHT

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

KAFB PARTNERS WITH SUNPORT



A Kirtland Fire truck ready to roll!

The partnership between Kirtland Air Force Base and Albuquerque International Sunport can only be described as "win-win" for both parties. In the unique arrangement, KAFB and the Sunport share runways and other facilities owned and maintained by the city. In return, KAFB provides emergency and fire services for the Sunport — meaning civilian traffic gets the best available protection.

“It would cost us millions to get set up for emergency services, plus 24-hour-a-day operational costs for just base-level emergency services if we didn't have the agreement with Kirtland,” says Aviation Director Jay Czar. “And the fire services provided by Kirtland are far beyond what is required at civilian airports.”

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INSIDE



Mayor tackles NOISE

THE ALBUQUERQUE SUNPORT will install noise-monitoring equipment, Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca has decided. *Page 2.*



Mayor TAKES ACTION against

Noise

When Jim Baca was running for mayor of Albuquerque, he tackled the issue of airport noise. He promised airport neighbors he would do something.

He's now fulfilling that promise. He has ordered the installation of permanent noise-monitoring equipment in areas surrounding Albuquerque International Sunport.

"I think the neighborhoods deserve it," the mayor says. "We're going to spend the money to do it."

"Exactly how the equipment will be deployed isn't determined yet. A committee is being formed to help decide where the monitors should go and what kind of equipment would work best," says Aviation Director Jay Czar. "Once the committee's work is done, a request for proposals will be issued and a timetable determined."

"This issue has been hanging around a long time," Baca says. "Having monitors in place will give us the data we need to make decisions."

With data in hand, it will be easier for the city to approach the Federal Aviation Administration and other concerned parties about changes in procedures to lessen noise impact from the airport.

In fact, the mayor already has approached the FAA about having all planes taking off from the Sunport turn to the south rather than climbing over the Northeast Heights. "That is the long-term solution — routing all flights away from residential areas," Baca says. "I know it's done in other cities, and it should be done here."



Airport Valet staff at your service



MUST
SEE



Mayor Jim Baca

COMMITTS TO THE COMMUNITIES

Currently, all air traffic is routed to the south between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. The mayor would like to take it one step further. "The process is only beginning, and having noise data will only aid our efforts."

The North-South runway previously was the biggest noise issue at the airport. That runway is now heavily restricted to use on very windy days when safety considerations dictate or when an emergency on another runway requires its use.

"Safety has to be the primary consideration," Baca says. "I believe we can find ways to abate airport noise without adversely affecting safe flight operations for commercial, general aviation and military flights."

The mayor believes in facing the issue head-on. "It's part of my commitment to this community, and it's the right thing to do," he says.

Greg and Kelly Brue know all too well the hassles of business travel.

SERVICE OFFERS TRAVEL

As a frequent flier, Greg braved the routine: searching for a parking space, lugging his suitcase to the terminal and rushing to the gate.

The Brues' new company, Airport Valet Inc., offers a more pleasant alternative. Airport Valet drivers pick up cars at the departure level, take them to a secured lot and meet travelers at the baggage claim level when they return home. The \$12.99 a day fee includes a car wash; services such as oil changes, fill-ups and dry cleaning are offered at an extra charge.

"It's a great service not only for business travelers, but for families traveling with a lot of luggage, or women who don't want to walk alone to their car at night," says Kelly Brue.

Airport Valet also offers short-term parking and pickup, at \$4 for two hours. "That's ideal if you're just picking someone up at the airport," she explains.

All Airport Valet drivers are insured, having undergone customer service training and background checks. The fenced parking lot, on Yale Boulevard, is protected by onsite security guards and cameras.

So far, says Brue, demand has been outstanding. "The first day we opened, we had four cars parked by 5:30 a.m." She and Greg are already searching for an additional parking facility as the 155-space lot on Yale nears capacity.

Brue credits much of the demand to travel agents, who are handing out coupons for Airport Valet. "They're very enthusiastic about the service," she says. "They've wanted something like this for a long time."

The company also has a strong working relationship with the Sunport. In a formal bidding process, Airport Valet agreed to pay the Sunport 7 percent of its revenues or \$60,000 annually, and an additional \$25,000 for each month it parks 300 or more cars.

But the benefit to the Sunport isn't only financial, says Brue. "We're helping free parking spaces in the main lot, which is always a concern for airports."

The Brues are already pitching the idea to several other airports, using Albuquerque as a model. "We're aiming to provide phenomenal customer service to this community," says Kelly Brue.



SUNPORT NEARS COMPLETION ON GA runway

The Sunport is about to complete a much-needed extension and repair of its general aviation runway.

"It was basically reconstruction of an existing runway - removing and replacing surface materials," says Dennis Parker, assistant director for Operations and Maintenance.

The runway — southeast-northwest 12-30 — was also lengthened by 860 feet to the southeast.

Planes were not rerouted during the construction process, and an environmental assessment determined the project wouldn't have an adverse environmental impact.

Because the extension required leasing land from Kirtland Air Force Base, both the FAA and Air Force approved the construction. A community hearing was held to gather input and answer questions.

First recommended in the 1994 Master Plan, the extension was financed by both airport and federal funds.

Military fire and rescue teams are drilled to a high standard because they prepare for combat situations in which numerous damaged aircraft may be landing.

Federal taxpayers benefit from the partnership, too.

"The benefit to the taxpayers is the airport and Kirtland Air Force Base aren't duplicating their efforts, but rather combining them," says Col. Polly Peyer, who last summer took over as commander of KAFB. "Although military aircraft account for only 18 percent of airfield usage, the partnership enhances interaction between city and military agencies with airport, fire department and medical staffs."

Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca is an enthusiastic backer of KAFB and the partnership with the Sunport. "Kirtland brings enormous economic benefits to the area, and the great partnership with the Sunport is only one of them."

Czar recently became a director of the Kirtland Partnership Committee, itself a unique partnership among government and private groups to promote the future of KAFB. The partnership was created several years ago when KAFB was targeted for closing. The Partnership was one of the forces instrumental in reversing that decision and influencing the Department of Defense to keep the base open.

KAFB's economic impact on Albuquerque is significant — in fiscal 1998, the base was responsible for an estimated 20,950 jobs. The total economic impact, including military, federal, civilian and contractors, was estimated at more than \$2 billion. Local construction projects alone totaled \$39 million.

Peyer commands the 377th Air Base Wing, the host unit for the dozens of organizations that work at Kirtland. The base was established in 1939 and in the ensuing 60 years has played dozens of roles for the Air Force and such organizations as Sandia National Laboratories.

The base includes about 80 square miles of land — for comparison, the City of Albuquerque encompasses 180 square miles.

The partnership also enables future growth of the facility, including runway expansion," Peyer notes. "For example, Kirtland Air Force Base recently leased base property to the Sunport so that a runway could be extended and thus reduce congestion.

Peyer adds that the relationship fosters cooperation between city and military organizations — the Sunport and KAFB conduct joint mass-casualty exercises every other year, and city agencies also support military exercises.

The KAFB fire department and rescue services are a focal point of the partnership, of course. The base's emergency units constantly train to remain sharp and up to date, Peyer says, noting that crews annually receive emergency training for each type of aircraft (military and civilian) that passes through the Sunport. Emergency Medical Services also are provided by the base to all aircraft.

Czar is quick to point out that base commanders always have been responsible members of the Albuquerque community. Peyer notes that KAFB airfield management attends community open houses concerning noise abatement as well as the monthly users meetings at the Sunport.

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Peyer says the Federal Aviation Administration determines the flying routes around KAFB.

However, training flights are scheduled to reduce the disturbance to the local community as much as possible. "We also have a noise-abatement program in place, which is an opportunity for neighbors of the Sunport and local community to discuss issues of concern involving aircraft and military flight operations issues," Peyer adds. "Kirtland strives to be a good steward to the environment as well as a good neighbor."



Kirtland brings enormous economic benefits to the area, and the partnership with the Sunport is only one, says Mayor Jim Baca.

NEWS



WIN-WIN SITUATION

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE
is host to several
MILITARY UNITS *and supports*
NUMEROUS FEDERAL MISSIONS

HERE IS A RUNDOWN:

- ▶ The 377th Air Base Wing is the host unit with about 2,800 military and civilian jobs. The unit provides support to almost 200 associate (or tenant) units.
- ▶ The 898th Munitions Squadron of the 377th stores, maintains, modifies and ships weapons and components for the Department of Energy as well as the Air Force, Army and Navy.
- ▶ The 58th Special Operations Wing trains advanced helicopter and MC-130 aircraft crews for special operations worldwide. More than 1,500 military and civilian jobs are associated with this unit.
- ▶ The 150th Fighter Wing of the New Mexico Air National Guard maintains a combat-ready squadron of F-16 aircraft and personnel.
- ▶ KAFB supports dozens of other federal organizations, ranging from the Albuquerque Field Office of the Department of Energy to Sandia National Laboratories to the Air Force's Phillips Lab, where the technologies and weapons of tomorrow are being researched and created.



from mexico to new mexico

SUNPORT SEEKS DIRECT FLIGHT TO MEXICO

A direct flight to Mexico City could be a boon to Albuquerque in more ways than one.

Certainly, the flight would draw greater numbers of tourists for sight-seeing, skiing and special events, says consultant Jerry Pacheco. But he also believes Albuquerque's business and medical communities would benefit from the change.

"New Mexico is the only border state without direct flights," notes Pacheco, a partner in international business consulting firm Global Perspectives Integrated. "And we're the only border state to have experienced a drop in trade since NAFTA was passed."

Pacheco, who previously served as director of the U.S. Trade Office in Mexico City, is working closely with Aviation Director Jay Czar to secure a direct flight from the Sunport. Mexicana Airlines has expressed strong interest, he says, but the recent move to privatize the airline has slowed negotiations.

A recent study by international air transport consultants SH&E showed great demand for a direct flight. **More than 100,000 passengers flew between Albuquerque & Mexico in 1996,** connecting through such cities as Dallas and Phoenix. Thirty thousand of those passengers flew to and from Mexico City.

Pacheco anticipates that once a flight is established, it would run twice a week, possibly on Thursdays and Sundays. That's exactly how Denver International Airport began its Mexico operations, he says. Denver now offers three flights a week, and as many as five during peak season.

Denver's direct flights have made Vail and Aspen hot spots for Mexican skiers — at the expense of Santa Fe and Taos.

But skiing isn't the only potential attraction. "Balloon Fiesta, Indian Market, camping and outdoor activities would be a big draw," he says, adding that **the shared language and culture makes New Mexico especially attractive to Mexican tourists.**

Albuquerque also boasts premier medical facilities for cancer and cardiology, among other specialties. With a direct flight, Mexican patients who now fly to Phoenix, Dallas or Houston for their care could take advantage of Albuquerque's medical resources.

"I continue to believe Albuquerque needs and would support air service to Mexico," says Mayor Jim Baca, who has made such service a priority of his administration. "It's vital to economic development and tourism efforts in Albuquerque and the rest of New Mexico that we have Mexico service."

Recently, the mayor has led an initiative by local governments, ski areas and economic development groups to draw Mexican skiers to New Mexico. In September he sent a letter to Mexicana planning director Fabricio Cojuc, inviting him to "visit us in Albuquerque to personally determine that a flight to Mexico makes sense," according to the Albuquerque Journal.

skiingsnowboardinhikingcampingwaterskiingballooningriversraftingbikingsightseeingshopping
diningdancinggolfingromancingsnowshoeinginlineskatingboatingsailingcookinggardening
hangglidingskydivingcrosscountryskiingfishingmotorcyclingantiquingkayakingstargazing
mountainclimbingrepellingbirdwatchingcraftscollectingnaturewatchingsewingrunning



Sunport partners with Balloon Fiesta

Each year, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta welcomes more than one million visitors — including people from across the country and around the world.

The Sunport has developed a close working relationship with the city's top tourist event, both helping pilots abide by FAA regulations and raising awareness of the Fiesta.

According to Fiesta Events Director Pat Brake, the area within four miles of Balloon Fiesta Park is "restricted airspace." In other parts of the city, especially near the Sunport, Federal Aviation regulations come into play.

Pilots flying over the airport are required to maintain an altitude of 7,800 feet, according to Acting Airfield Operations Manager Wayne Hanzich. Should a balloon need to land at the Sunport, aviation staff will escort the chase crew onto the airfield.

That only happens a few times each year, according to Hanzich. But he has noted an increased number of balloons landing just south of the airport. "As the city grows, there are fewer locations for pilots to land."

Display welcomes gas-balloon pilots

This year, the Sunport also helped promote a special Fiesta event — the 43rd annual Gordon Bennett Cup. The prestigious gas-balloon race, in which pilots compete to fly the greatest distance non-stop, lifted off Oct. 2.

This year's competition welcomed 20 teams, representing 12 countries. Albuquerque residents Mark Sullivan, Richard Abruzzo and Troy Bradley served as pilots in command for the three U.S. teams.

The pilots recently joined Fiesta officials and Aviation Director Jay Czar in introducing the Sunport display, which includes a gas-balloon gondola and the crystal winners' trophy.

Increased traffic, tourism dollars

Although it's tough to estimate how many visitors fly into Albuquerque specifically for the Fiesta, passenger levels are noticeably higher in October than in other fall months. More than 550,000 passengers crossed through the airport in October 1998 — compared to a monthly average of 512,000. The Fiesta contributes millions of dollars to the city's economy each year, through lodging, meals and entertainment.

Several airlines actively promote the event, she says. Continental Airlines even sponsors the Flight of the Nations, a mass ascension in which pilots display their nation's flag. "



COMMUNITY

INTERNS LEARN TOOLS OF THE TRADE

For most teens, summer is a time for relaxing — or working a restaurant or retail job.

Six students from Rio Grande High School took advantage of a unique summer opportunity: working at the Albuquerque International Sunport. By interning for 20 hours a week, they developed their professional and people skills, and secured valuable references for the future.

INTERNS



"My school counselor told me about it, and I was called in for an interview," says junior Jany Valladez. She was posted in the Communications Center, where she answered phones and helped update the Flight Information Display System. Valladez's Spanish skills came in handy when paging passengers. And she learned quite a bit just watching Communications staff handle crisis situations.

Valladez has already noticed improvement in her computer, typing and phone skills. Most important, she's had valuable experience working with people - experience that will help in her plans to become an eye doctor.



Senior Robert Wehrle's mechanical ability landed him an internship with the Airfield Maintenance Division. In addition to assisting with vehicle maintenance, he straightened shelves and stocked parts and accessories.



There were other perks to the internship — such as a personalized tour of the airfield and control tower. "It was an interesting job all around," says the future computer technician.

From top,
Robert Wehrle
and Jany Valladez,
Stacy King and
Michelle Martinez,
Jany Valladez and
aviation director
Jay Czar

Senior Stacy King just wanted a summer job, but her school counselor had something better in mind. The data entry and phone skills she developed as an intern in the Building Maintenance and Engineering divisions were helpful. But best of all, she says, "I got to work with a lot of great people."

Senior Michelle Martinez hadn't originally planned on interning — she just accompanied her friends to the interviews. But she's glad she got the job. As an intern with Facilities Engineering and Aviation Police, she filed papers, ran errands and helped with ID badge paperwork.

"After this summer, we're more sure of ourselves — we know we're able to accomplish a lot of things," she says. Both she and King plan to pursue careers in medicine.

The internship program, now in its second year, grew from the Sunport's successful partnership with the Rio Grande High School cluster. As a Join-A-School partner, the Sunport helps students of all ages learn about the airport and possible careers in aviation or customer service.

SUNPORT PASSENGER TOTALS: JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1999

July

1 9 9 9	1 9 9 8
Passenger total	601,412
Southwest Airlines	277,750
Delta	71,850
American	58,633
United	53,383
America West	37,393
TWA	37,002
Continental	31,277
Northwest	14,369
Mesa Airlines	12,064
Frontier	4,707
Skywest	2,532
Rio Grande	452

August

1 9 9 9	1 9 9 8
Passenger total	580,328
Southwest Airlines	268,328
Delta	67,929
United	54,011
American	53,323
America West	37,001
TWA	34,236
Continental	29,479
Northwest	14,366
Mesa	13,223
Frontier	4,829
Skywest	2,788
Rio Grande Air	584

September

1 9 9 9	1 9 9 8
Passenger total	505,893
Southwest Airlines	233,934
Delta	59,436
United	43,732
American	49,084
America West	33,205
TWA	27,428
Continental	26,766
Mesa	12,637
Northwest	12,498
Frontier	4,167
Skywest	2,444
Rio Grande Air	562

TOTAL PASSENGERS

Year to Date 1999: 4,696,295
 Year to Date 1998: 4,628,056
 % change from previous year 1.47%



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